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Vice Chair, Ways and Means  
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Committee

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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 17, 2023

**House Bill 430 - Police Immunity and Accountability Act**

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to present **House Bill 430 - Police Immunity and Accountability Act**, which would establish civil liability for police officers if they violate another individual's constitutional rights.

The removal of qualified immunity creates an extra layer of security for Maryland residents when an officer violates their rights. HB 430 would create a penalty directly holding the officer accountable by ensuring that if rights are violated, the officer cannot claim immunity and can be sued directly. If held liable, the officer must reimburse \$25,000 or 5 percent of the amount awarded. It also includes review for decertification if found liable. We have seen extreme examples of excessive force by officers in the United States, such as the case of George Floyd in Minnesota, and Freddie Gray in Maryland.

HB 430 will hold police officers accountable for excessive use of force and other misconduct by eliminating their special immunity from lawsuits. It is an essential part of the overdue policing overhaul we are continuing to work on in Maryland. Law enforcement officers are tasked to protect and serve, and this bill is crucial for citizens of Maryland. I urge the committee to give a **favorable report** for **House Bill 430 - Police Immunity and Accountability Act**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jheanelle Wilkins'.

Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins